

#### FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE January 4, 2008

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## MAYOR JERRY SANDERS PRESS RELEASE

### MAYOR DETAILS CITY PREPARATIONS FOR COMING RAINS

# SAN DIEGANS ASKED TO STOP OUTSIDE IRRIGATION AND OBSERVE TRAFFIC CONTROL MEASURES NEAR WATERWAYS AND HILLSIDES

Mayor Jerry Sanders is asking everyone to join the City in preparing for the storm systems expected to arrive in San Diego beginning this evening. The Mayor is calling on San Diegans to turn off their sprinklers and other outside irrigation systems and to carefully observe traffic control measures during the wet weather ahead.

#### CITY OFFERING EROSION CONTROL SUPPLIES

Working in anticipation of the storm, the City is poised to continue assisting citizens from fire-affected areas with erosion and sediment control materials. During fire recovery efforts the City distributed more than 15,000 gravel and sand bags used to control erosion. The City is once again providing those materials for pick-up at the erosion control materials distribution in the parking lot of the Rancho Bernardo Community Park along West Bernardo Drive near Glassman Recreation Center at 18448 West Bernardo Drive. Materials available at the Center include gravel and sand bags and fiber rolls.

City Streets Division staff will be monitoring drains, lights and roadways throughout the duration of the coming storms. Staff will also continue to make special patrols throughout the fire-affected areas of the City.

#### SOLEDAD LANDSLIDE AREA SET FOR STORM

The City has been working to secure the Soledad landslide site and has made significant progress in reducing danger by removing destroyed homes and debris, as well as regrading the slide site. During the storms the City will provide around-the-clock staffing at the site, and City engineers and Fire/Rescue staff will patrol the area. Drainage measures including tarps, water diversion piping, and sump pumps to protect against flows into the landslide area, are already in place on site.

San Diegans are asked to remain cautious during the storms when near hillsides, along steep roads and in burn areas.

#### MOTORISTS URGED TO CAREFULLY OBSERVE TRAFFIC CONTROL MEASURES

Certain areas of San Diego, including the roads near the San Diego River, can be dangerous during intense storms. Motorists are asked to please be careful when approaching low-lying areas. Also, if Police, Fire or other official personnel are on-site at a flooded road, motorists are asked to please obey their directions and all traffic control measures in place.

#### STORMS OFFER AN OPPORTUNITY TO CONSERVE WATER

Mayor Sanders is joining the San Diego County Water Authority in calling for the end to outdoor watering as the three storm fronts begin moving into the county this evening.

"Everyone should take advantage of this opportunity to conserve water," said the Mayor. "These storms promise to bring a lot of rain to our region and our yards won't need their regular irrigation cycles if that proves true," he said, "If the predictions for rain and cool temperatures hold true, we may be able to limit outdoor watering for more than a week."

The City will also be taking advantage of the rains by limiting its own irrigation of park areas during the storms. City park crews will be turning off automatic sprinkler systems and keeping manual systems closed during the storms.

For more water conservation tips, incentives and programs, visit <a href="www.20gallonchallenge.com">www.20gallonchallenge.com</a>. To help estimate the right amount of water to give landscapes or gardens use the City of San Diego's Landscape Watering Calculator at <a href="www.sandiego.gov/water/conservation">www.sandiego.gov/water/conservation</a>.

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